

Serial No. 09/525,447
Amdt. dated September 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2004

Docket No. K-0090F

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 9-15 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 are amended, and new claims 10-15 are added, and claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is moot since claim 2 has been cancelled. Hence, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to based on an informality. That informality has been corrected, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 stand under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Abeta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,003). However, claims 4-9 are indicated as allowable. The subject matter of indicated allowable claims 4 and 5 (with corrections to the typographical errors) has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the subject matter of indicated allowable claims 7 and 8 (with corrections to the typographical errors) has been incorporated into independent claim 3. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Abeta et al. fails to disclose or teach the claim features. Hence, the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Further, new claims have been added including new independent claim 14 and 15. It is respectfully submitted that such features are not disclosed or taught by Abeta et al.

The Examiner is directed to all co-pending applications of this applications and patents or patented applications, which are as follows: U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/373,703 (docket number K-0090A), 09/376,373 (docket number K-0090B), 09/525,446 (docket number K-

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0090C), 09/525,444 (docket number K-0090D), and 09/525,448 (docket number K-0090E)

under § 609.I.A.2 of MPEP.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 34,596

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DYK/cah
Date: September 23, 2004

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610